

25. (Amended) A machine-readable storage medium including program codes, which upon execution, cause a machine to perform the steps comprising of receiving search criteria based upon a geographic position; and

~~searching the world wide web for a hypertext document that is accessible on a computer connected by a communication network in accordance with the search criteria, wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic position information.~~

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15-19, 21-26, 28 and 29 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 15 and 25, the independent claims, have been amended. Claims 14, 20 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-13, 15-19, 21-23 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,852,810 (Sotiroff et al.) in view of WO 97/14054 (Girerd).

Applicant also notes with appreciation that Claims 14, 20 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As shown above, the features of Claims 14 and 20 have been incorporated into their respective base claims, i.e., Claims 7 and 15. Accordingly, Claims 7-13, 15-19 and 21-24 now believed in condition for allowance.

Regarding the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method for searching for information accessible through a client/server network containing a plurality of servers. The method includes the steps of connecting to one of the plurality of servers, receiving a graphical map of a geographic area from the server, displaying the graphical map on a display device, entering search criteria for locating at least one hypertext document based on a geographic position, and receiving a search result indicating the hypertext document located in accordance with the search criteria. The located hypertext document is accessible from another server different from the one server of the plurality of servers. The hypertext document also includes geographic position information.

Sotiroff et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for listing and locating housing in specific geographic regions. The system includes a web home page and a housing information database. A map is displayed when the web home page is accessed by a user. The user narrows searches to geographic areas by selecting specific areas of interest on the map. Housing information related to the area of interest is then displayed for the user. This system, however, is not a web page search engine. It does not allow a user to locate web pages using geographic coordinates. The searchable information is limited to the information contained in the database -- rather than the universe of information available on the web.

As recited in Claim 1, a hypertext document is located that includes geographic position information. The Office Action states that Sotiroff et al. does not disclose such a feature. The Office Action, however, cites Girerd as shown such a feature.

As understood by Applicant, Girerd relates to a client-server based remote locator device. The Office Action states that Girerd shows a GPS receiver that a user can use to

display simple position reports. In Girerd, a remote sensor transmits position data to a server where it is analyzed to determine the location of the remote sensor.

It is noted, however, that Claim 1 recites that the hypertext document (not a remote sensor) to be located includes geographic position information. Nothing found in Girerd teaches or suggests this feature.

Claim 25 as amended is directed to a machine-readable storage medium including program codes, which upon execution, cause a machine to perform the steps comprising of receiving search criteria based upon a geographic position and searching the world wide web for a hypertext document that is accessible on a computer connected by a communication network in accordance with the search criteria. The hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic position information.

Nothing found in Girerd teaches or suggests that a hypertext document has a name based upon geographic position information.

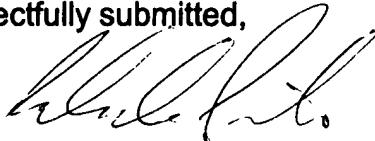
Accordingly, even if Sotiroff et al. and Girerd are combined as suggested in the Office Action, the result still would not teach or suggest the above noted features of Claims 1 and 25. For at least these reasons, Claims 1 and 25 are believed patentable over Sotiroff et al. and Girerd.

The other rejected claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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On May 18, 2007

By 
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Appendix of Claim Amendments

1. (Amended) A method for searching for information accessible through a client/server network containing a plurality of servers, comprising the steps of:
 - connecting to one of the plurality of servers;
 - receiving a graphical map of a geographic area from the server;
 - displaying the graphical map on a display device;
 - entering search criteria for locating at least one hypertext document based on a geographic position; and
 - receiving a search result indicating the hypertext document located in accordance with the search criteria,
 - wherein the located hypertext document is accessible from another server different from the one server of the plurality of servers,
 - wherein the hypertext document includes geographic position information.
7. (Amended) A method for providing information through a client/server network, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a connection request from a client;
 - generating a graphic map based upon a geographic area;
 - transmitting the graphic map to the client;
 - receiving search criteria for locating a world wide web page based upon a geographic position;
 - searching the world wide web in accordance with the received search criteria; and
 - transmitting a search result to the client,
 - wherein the search result includes reverse-position information for determining a geographic position of the client.
15. (Amended) A server for providing information which is accessible through a computer network, comprising:

a controller including an interface to the computer network;
a graphical mapping system responsive to said controller capable of generating a map of a geographic area for transmission through said interface;
a search engine configured to locate a hypertext document in the computer network in accordance with a request received through said interface; and
an index including position information and hyperlinks, wherein said search engine is further configured to locate the hypertext document by searching said index,
wherein the request includes search criteria based upon geographic position.

25. (Amended) A machine-readable storage medium including program codes, which upon execution, cause a machine to perform the steps comprising of receiving search criteria based upon a geographic position; and

searching the world wide web for a hypertext document that is accessible on a computer connected by a communication network in accordance with the search criteria,
wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic position information.